**UNIT OVERVIEW:** UK Parliament

**ENQUIRY:** How effective is Parliament in holding the Executive to account?

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| **Unit intention:** To explore the structure and workings of Parliament, including the House of Commons and the House of Lords and analyse which chamber in the bi-cameral structure has more power and influence. Students will also analyse and evaluate how effective Parliament is in holding the government to account or indeed recognise and substantiate how the government often dominates. | | | |
| **Success criteria** | | 🗸 | X |
| 1. I can **explain** and **distinguish** between **parliamentary government** and **parliamentary sovereignty.** 2. I can **explain** the structure of the House of Commons and the House of Lords and **identify** and **explain** how MPs and members of the Lords are selected and **evaluate** whether there is a need of reform. 3. I can **identify**, **assess** and **evaluate** the functions of Parliament. I can **identify, explain** and **assess** the comparative and relative functions/powers of the two chambers of Parliament. I can **assess** and **evaluate** which chamber is more powerful and influential in holding the executive to account. 4. I can **evaluate** whether the House of Lords is in need of reform. 5. I can **explain** the legislative process of the UK Parliament and **identify** and **explain** the significance of the different types of bills. 6. I can **identify**, **assess** and **evaluate** how effective backbenchers are in holding the executive to account. 7. I can **identify**, **assess** and **evaluate** how effective select committees are in holding the executive to account. 8. I can **identify**, **assess** and **evaluate** how effective PMQs/Ministers questions are in holding the executive to account. 9. I can **identify**, **assess** and **evaluate** how effective the Official Opposition is in holding the executive to account. | |  |  |
| **Topic Sequence**   1. Structure of Parliament and Selection of MPs and Lords 2. Functions of Parliament – are they fulfilled? 3. Comparative powers of the House of Commons and the House of Lords 4. Parliamentary reforms 5. Parliamentary Bills and the Legislative Process 6. Role and significance of Backbench Bills 7. Role and significance of Select Committees 8. Role and significance of PMQs/ Ministerial Questions 9. Role and significance of the Official Opposition | **Useful Links/Resources:**  **BBC News** [www.bbc.com/politics](http://www.bbc.com/politics)  **Channel Four News (Politics)** – in depth video analysis of political stories. <https://www.channel4.com/news/>  The **Economist** has analysis and opinions of the latest political stories. <https://www.economist.com/>  **The Telegraph** – Current political news, more from a Conservative perspective.  <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/>  The **Guardian** – Current political news, more from a liberal perspective.  <https://www.theguardian.com/politics>  **Blogs**  **UCL Constitution Unit** – Research based blog dealing with analysis of current political problems  <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/politicsandpolicy/>  **Politics blog**  <http://alevelpolitics.com/>  **Useful resources**  **Tutor2u – resources for A-Level Politics**  <https://www.tutor2u.net/politics>  **Politics Review Magazines – Extra Resources**  <https://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/magazines/magazines-extras/politics-review-extras>  **They Work For You** - Tracker of MP voting behaviour  <https://www.theyworkforyou.com/mps/> | | |

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| **Wider Reading** | 🗸 |
| 1. Parliament and the government in the UK (Politics Review 2022) 2. How representative is the House of Commons? (Politics Review 2020) 3. Did backbenchers ‘take back control’ of parliament in 2019? 4. Has Brexit empowered Parliament? (Politics Review 2020) 5. Select Committees (Politics Review 2018) 6. House of Lords Reform (Politics Review) 7. The House of Lords: role and impact of peers in the 2020s 8. Is it time to fully reform the House of Lords? 9. Parliament and the Executive: the changing relationship between parliament and the executive in the 2020s |  |
| **Exam Question** | |
| **Evaluate the view that Parliament is effective in holding the Executive to account. (30 marks)** | |
| **Teacher Question Time**  Write questions below you would like the teacher to clarify your understanding on | |
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